

# Voice of Thanksgiving

## Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer

Inner Court Ministries

For the Week of March 19, 2006

### *A Call to Prayer*

***“Sanctify yourselves and be holy, for I am the LORD your God. And you shall keep My statutes, and do them. I AM the LORD who sanctifies you.”*** Leviticus 20:7-8

At best, when men endeavor to be holy all that is produced is a different set of legalistic bondages that masquerade in religious jargon and pious appearance. Very little genuine spiritual force or power is experienced, but only a form that appears to natural man as a religious accomplishment.

Here is a mystery of God’s grace, as well as a secret to experiencing genuine Christian victory – whatever God commands of us, as we demonstrate a willing and obedient heart toward Him, He then acts to do what we can not do for ourselves! We understand that without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6), but we see that the very faith needed to please Him, is also a gift from Him! (Ephesians 2:8-9) Therefore, no man may boast in himself and God is glorified by all! How marvelous!

It is no different with His command to be holy. “But, as He who has called you is holy; so you are to be holy in all manner of life, because it is written, “Be holy; for I am Holy.” (1 Peter 1:15-16). What He commands, He also empowers us to do and to be. “Sanctify yourselves.” I AM the LORD who sanctifies you! “And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly...” (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

Won’t you rest in His completed work alone? Be free from your own attempts to be holy before God. Walk in His grace and experience His holiness at work in your life. “Father, today, I cease from my own works that You may work in me all that is necessary for me and be profitable for You!”

Mark Spencer from *Before the Throne—The Devotional*

### *Continue Earnestly in Prayer*

***And give Him no rest till He establishes  
And till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.***

Isaiah 62:7 (NKJV)

Pray for these men, women, and ministries. The Holy Spirit is looking for partners who will join with these ministries in prayer and support reaching nations for Jesus Christ. Pray for open doors of opportunity for the Gospel.

**The Inntal Prayer Initiative** – Pray for the Pro Christ outreach in cities across Germany this week! (March 19 through 26, 2006). Begin praying for upcoming seminars on prayer.

**John Coon** – Pray for John who has ministered in Europe and Eastern Europe for more than twenty-five years and his trip to Poland May 1 through 9, 2006. Pray for the preparations and details for a successful ministry trip.

**Marianne and David Dean** – *Pray that the Lord would help us find balance while we invest in friendships here in the States yet remain focused on our goal of returning to East Asia in August. Pray that the Lord will bless our times in his Word and prayer.*

**Joyce Abrahamson** – Pray for the school children, their education is important and their introduction to the Lord is imperative.

**Your Home Church** – Pray for your church and its world view. Pray that they will in ever increasing measure see the nations of the world as white unto harvest. Pray for labors to be thrust forth for the nations.

**DK Limbu Daniel** – Pray for Pastor Daniel and the pastors he works with in Nepal. Pray for safety for the pastors and their churches.

**Pray for Israel** – Pray for Israel; the times are difficult for this nation and people.

**The Brotherhood Beyond Boundaries Conference** – Pray for the men and women (pastors from across Europe) coming to the BBB Conference June 2006 in Poland. Pray for the pastors and their home towns and areas, pray for open doors for the spread of the Gospel.

**Jacek Gromadzki** – Pray for Jack and the church in Kolobrzeg, Poland, pray for the outreaches of this church.

**Marek Kaminski** – Pray for Marek and his church in Poland, pray for his schedule and wise use of his time. Pray for time to complete all he must do and still have time with his family.

**Mark Spencer** – Pray for Mark and his plans for this year's seminars and other obligations that he must fulfill. Pray for wise use of his time.

### **Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer**

#### **Breakup the Fallow Ground—My Heart**

David Williamson

***Sow for yourselves righteousness; Reap in mercy;  
Break up your fallow ground, For it is time to seek the Lord,  
Till He comes and rains righteousness on you.***

Hosea 10:12 (NKJV)

These words from Hosea speak volumes; sow righteousness, reap mercy, breakup the fallow ground, seek the Lord; and do this until He comes and rains righteousness on us. This verse was written to Israel, but applies as well to us today. It applies in many ways; one of the most important factors,

critical to success in prayer, is the application of this verse to our individual hearts. Maturity in prayer comes from the heart, a heart that does not lay fallow, but one that has been prepared by the Holy Spirit. The heart of the believer is the key to prayer, the hardened heart cannot pray. Just as the pioneers settling in new areas had to breakup the fallow ground to make it productive, so the Holy Spirit is working to breakup the fallow ground of our heart. He is working to prepare our heart to be productive in prayer.

***Lord, You have heard the desire of the humble;  
You will prepare their heart;  
You will cause Your ear to hear***  
Psalm 10:17 (NKJV)

***He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol,  
Nor sworn deceitfully.***  
Psalm 24:4 (NKJV)

***Blessed are the pure in heart,  
For they shall see God.***  
Matthew 5:8 (NKJV)

To be productive in prayer our heart must be prepared, ready to hear and respond to God. The Holy Spirit is working in each of us and is working to bring to completion His plans for us.

***Lord, You have heard the desire of the humble;  
You will prepare their heart;  
You will cause Your ear to hear,***  
Psalm 10:17 (NKJV)

There are many areas where He is working, His lessons are individualized designed for each of us and for the times and places where we are. His goal is perfection; that we will be just like Jesus. Here are some lessons for the heart. What is the Holy Spirit teach you today?

Joyful in God - 1 Samuel 2:1; Zech. 10:7	A treasury of good - Matthew 12:35
Upright - Psalm 97:11; Psalm 125:4	Clean - Psalm 73:1
Pure - Psalm 24:4; Matthew 5:8	Tender - 1 Samuel 24:5; 2 Kings 22:19
Inclined to obedience - Psalm 119:112	Honest and good - Luke 8:15
Broken, contrite - Psalm 34:18; Psalm 51:17	Obedient - Psalm 119:112; Romans 6:17
Awed by the word of God - Psalm 119:161	Filled with the fear of God - Jeremiah 32:40
Meditative - Psalm 4:4; Psalm 77:6	Circumcised - Deut. 30:6; Romans 2:29
Void of fear - Psalm 27:3	Desirous of God - Psalm 84:2
Enlarged - Psalm 119:32; 2 Cor. 6:11	Faithful to God - Neh. 9:8
Confident in God - Psalm 112:7	Sympathizing - Jeremiah 4:19; Lament. 3:51
Prayerful - 1 Samuel 1:13; Psalm 27:8	Zealous - 2 Chron. 17:6; Jeremiah 20:9
Single and sincere - Acts 2:46; Hebrews 10:22	Perfect with God - 1 Kings 8:61; Psalm 101:2
Wise - Proverbs 10:8; Proverbs 14:33; Proverbs 23:15	
Filled with the law of God - Psalm 40:8; Psalm 119:11	
Wholly devoted to God - Psalm 9:1; Psalm 119:10, 69, 145	

Lesson-by-lesson we grow and mature, lesson-by-lesson the Holy Spirit prepares our heart.

*Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean;  
I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.  
I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you;  
I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.  
I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes,  
and you will keep My judgments and do them.  
Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers;  
you shall be My people, and I will be your God.*

Ezekiel 36:25-28 (NKJV)

*But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who,  
having heard the word with a noble and good heart,  
keep it and bear fruit with patience.*

Luke 8:15 (NKJV)

*“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord:  
I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,”  
then He adds, “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”  
Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.  
Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,  
by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is,  
His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God,  
let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith,  
having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.  
Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering,  
for He who promised is faithful.  
And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,  
not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some,  
but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

Hebrews 10:16-25 (NKJV)

**Breakup the Fallow Ground**

### **Home for This Company**

The home of *Voice of Thanksgiving* is at [www.voiceofthanksgiving.com](http://www.voiceofthanksgiving.com). This website has current and past issues of VoT and an archive of articles from the section *Imperative Importance of the Work of Prayer*. The monthly issues of *Stimme der Dankbarkeit*, the German monthly version of VoT are also available here. Send correspondence to [dave@voiceofthanksgiving.com](mailto:dave@voiceofthanksgiving.com)

**Calling a Company of Believers Together for Prayer**